



Flathead Conservation District
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CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Chairman Ronald Buentemeier called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present: Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; John Ellis, Supervisor; Verdel Jackson, Supervisor; Lori Curtis, Supervisor, being a quorum of the Board. Mark Siderius, Supervisor, came into the meeting at 7:05 P.M.

Board members not in attendance: Dean Sirucek Secretary/Treasurer. Absence is excused.

Also in attendance were: Valerie Kurth, Cynthia Ingelfinger and Ginger Kauffman, FCD staff; Angel Rosario, Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS); Elena Evans, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD); Tiffany Martin, River Steward/Big Sky Watershed Corps.

MINUTES

John Ellis made a motion "to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2017, 310-Stream Permit meeting as presented." Verdel Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email: Lower Musselshell CD newsletter, <http://lmcddistrict.com>
 2. Email: *Preliminary Report of Exotic plant impacts in western wheatgrass communities of east-central Montana*, and *Summary of Preliminary Results - Evaluation Ecological Impacts of Common Buckthorn in Montana* from the Rocky Mountain Research Station, USDA Forest Service, Missoula.
 3. Email: Montana Aquatic Invasive Species grant applications due March 1, 2017. <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cadd/resource-development/aquatic-invasive-species>. Also <http://musselresponse.mt.gov> for additional information on Montana's Mussel Response.
 4. Email from Laurie Zeller, DNRC, regarding a bill that will affect CD's. House Bill #281, A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROHIBITING ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINES AND FOSSIL FUEL PIPELINES FROM BEING LOCATED UNDER WATER BODIES" <http://leg.mt.gov/bills/2017/billhtml/HB0281.htm>
 5. Email: January 18, 2017 issue of *The Montana Conservationist* www.swcdmi.org
 6. Email: Copy of a letter to Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) from Cascade CD Board regarding MACD dues & the 2018 MACD Convention. cascadecd.com
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7. Email: Whitefish Planning Board January 19, 2017, meeting agenda.
<http://www.cityofwhitefish.org/boards-and-committees/whitefish-city-county-planning-board.php>
8. Email: National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) January 9, 2017, letter to President-Elect Trump regarding the past designation of lands as national monuments or similar designation without input from impacted communities.
9. Email: Applications to the DNRC Renewable Resource Grant & Loan Program are due March 31, 2017. Applications must be made at <https://www.fundingmt.org/index.do> by March 31, 2017. For details <http://dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans>, or contact Bob Fischer, P.E., RRGL Program Engineer, at (406)444-6688 or rfischer@mt.gov.
10. Email: Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) Water Quality Mini grant applications due February 28, 2017.
www.swcdmi.org/programs/mini-grants
11. Lewis & Clark winter newsletter *The Explorer* www.lccd.mt.nacdnet.org or www.facebook.com/lewisandclarkcd

FINANCIAL

The following bills were reviewed:

1. CenturyLink \$262.25
2. Daily Interlake \$9.11
3. Insty Prints of Kalispell \$49.95
4. SWCDM \$500.00
5. VISA \$1520.98

John Ellis made a motion “to approve the bills as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one was present to comment on items not on the agenda.

OFFICE SPACE RENTAL: Elena Evans, MACD, spoke to the board about the possibility of an MACD staff person using space in the Flathead CD office. Discussion held. John Ellis made a motion “to allow MACD to have a staff person use space in the FCD office at the rate of \$100 per month.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS MEETING: Valerie Kurth reported the Floodplain meeting between Department of Natural Resources (DNRC), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other agencies was cancelled. Discussion held regarding legislation, Floodplain regulations, engineering needs and costs to landowners. Elena Evans, MACD, stated that any questions for FEMA or further input can be directed to her.



HB CULVERT REPLACEMENT GR#223-17-3491, Engineering Contract: Discussion held. John Ellis made a motion “for Ronald Buentemeier, FCD Chairman, to sign the contract for the HB Culvert Replacement grant #223-17-3491 engineering contract.” Lori Curtis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CPA ENGAGEMENT LETTERS: Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion “to approve and sign the Terms of Engagement letters from Susan Hulslander, CPA, for calendar years 2016 and 2017.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MACD DUES: Discussion held regarding dues amounts, percentages and caps.

BUDGET: The December 2016 End of Month report was reviewed with the board. Discussion held. Lori Curtis made a motion “to accept the financials as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

NRCS REPORT: Angél Rosario, NRCS, reported on the following:

EQUIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)

- February 17 – Sign up deadline for Special Initiatives
- June 16 - Deadline for all 2017 contract obligations
- 141 applications currently

CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)

- February 3 – Sign up deadline

WRP (Wetland Reserve Program)

- Lost Trail Restoration Project update

OTHER

- Jessie Ressel is on maternity leave
- Western MT Grazing & Ag. Conference – February 9-10, Missoula
- Snow Report

STAFF REPORT: The following report was submitted by Valerie Kurth and Cynthia Ingelfinger:

District Office and Outreach

1. December advertisements: 310 Winter (2)
2. January advertisements: Cost Share Program and Camps & Scholarships
3. We continue to facilitate communication among DNRC, FWP, DEQ, Don MacIntyre, Caitlin Overland, and the representatives for the landowner and the complainants in regard to the Stalowy 310. We initiated the declaratory ruling process by compiling all of the Stalowy 310 documents into exhibit files, and made copies for public review in the FCD office and the Bigfork Library. We also had an electronic copy of the exhibits made. January 25th is the first deadline for new or rebuttal information to be submitted. The hearing will be on March 6th, at 6:00 PM at the Red Lion Hotel.
4. Kate Arpin, Communications and Outreach Manager at Soils and Water Conservation Districts of Montana, came to Kalispell on January 10th to help us improve the FCD website. We learned that most of our website questions and



- problems were tied to the relatively old age of the computer code and inflexible design. Kate helped us select and install a newer format, which is both easier for us to use and easier for the public to find the information they need. Cynthia continues to refine the site, including simplifying the organizational structure, organizing/adding photographs, and updating content. She has also added a backup program, Google Analytics, and fillable PDFs. The new website theme is more user-friendly for administrative and public outreach purposes, as well as more secure and visually-appealing.
5. Valerie drafted and submitted a letter to the City of Whitefish regarding FCD supervisor appointments for 2017.
 6. Cynthia and Valerie met with representatives from Flathead Audubon about potential collaborations on educational activities.
 7. Cynthia and Valerie met with Andrew Westlund from the Flathead Beacon about our ads program and possible expansion into the magazine and digital platforms. Andrew is currently helping us with a Weed Workshop advertisement.
 8. Cynthia met with Eric Sawtelle from Whitefish High School about his FREEFLOW club and future joint projects/partnerships.
 9. Cynthia is on the Lake Book 3rd edition committee and has been reviewing the Lake Book 2nd edition for edits/suggestions.
 10. Cynthia met with personnel from the Northwest Montana Educators Cooperative about education programs and outreach opportunities.
 11. Cynthia met with Holly McKenzie about an April 8th Project Learning Tree Educators' Workshop that we are sponsoring and helping to run.

Flathead County Weed Management Plan Update: Valerie and Cynthia are continuing to contact personnel from other agencies regarding the anticipated weed management plan update.

Flathead Watershed Sourcebook Curriculum: Cynthia, Valerie, and Lori Curtis met with staff from Lake County Conservation District to discuss a collaboration for reviewing, editing, and implementing the curriculum. Specific tasks include: developing a standard lesson format, a method for adding new lessons, and general editing. The updated files for the new printing of the Sourcebook were sent to the printer on January 20th.

Legislative: We held the legislative breakfast on December 1st. Attendance was excellent – we hosted 9 legislators, 10 FCD supervisors and staff, and representatives from DNRC (Laurie Zeller and Ray Beck), MACD (Elena Evans), NRCS (Angel Rosario), and landowners (Don and Mary Ann Garner). We provided attendees with folders containing information about FCD, activities, and responsibilities. We also sent follow-up letters and information to legislators who were unable to attend. Now that the legislative session is underway, Valerie is relaying pertinent information from MACD to FCD supervisors. She also drafted letters of support for the DNRC budget committee hearing and the Renewable Resource Grant and Loan committee hearing.

Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC): Cynthia attended the HBWC meeting on January 11th. There was not a quorum but the group had pre-voted via email to approve the choice of Robert Peccia Associations (RPA) consultants for the Haskill Basin Road culvert



replacement engineering and design plan. RPA will be working with River Design Group on this project as well. Cynthia worked with Don MacIntyre and Tara Fugina on the contract.

River Steward/River to Lake Initiative: Cynthia and Valerie attended the River to Lake Initiative and River Steward meetings on December 14th. This year's River Steward, Tiffany Martin, arrived in the Flathead in early January and, so far, her activities have included: attending Big Sky Watershed Corps training, developing a work plan, and getting acquainted with the Valley and River Steward program. The River Steward restoration video, initiated by Constanza von der Pahlen last summer and filmed last fall, has been released to partners for internal review.

Seedling Program: We continue to receive inquiries about the program and have processed 6 orders so far.

Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP): Sarah Bowman continued working on the WRP under her temporary appointment with FCD and submitted the plan to DEQ in mid-December. Personnel from DEQ have reviewed it, and we are working with them on final edits and revisions. Valerie submitted the final report for the Watershed Management Program grant, which provided half of the BSWC host site fee, in December.

Weed Workshop: On December 13th, Cynthia and Valerie met with Kima Caddell, Kat Pine, Dawn LaFleur, Pat McGlynn about the March 1st weed workshop to discuss ideas for this year's Weed Management Workshop. Arrangements have been made with Flathead Valley Community College to host the event, which will be on March 1st, from 6:00 – 8:30 PM. There will be presentations from Dawn LaFleur, Kima Caddell, and Pat McGlynn followed by questions and answers. We will have information tables set up in the back as well.

HASKILL BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL (HBWC): Cynthia Ingelfinger reported the HBWC meeting on January 11th lacked a quorum. The next HBWC meeting is scheduled for March 8th.

SOURCEBOOK CURRICULUM PROJECT: Lori Curtis reported Sourcebook proofs were received and final copies should be available soon.

MACD REPORT: Elena Evans, MACD, reported that Valley County CD in Glasgow wants to move the 2017 convention up a few weeks, which could impact Area meetings, resolutions and timelines. Elena also noted Jeff Tiberi's *News From the Front* comes out every Friday, and encouraged the district to reach out to her or Jeff with any legislative issues.

WHITEFISH CITY PLANNING BOARD (WCPB): John Ellis reported the WCPB meeting included a zone change request regarding workforce housing, which was recommend to Whitefish City Council for approval.

FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION (FBC) REPORT: The next FBC meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2017, 10:00 A.M., Lake County Courthouse, Polson.



FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD (FCPB): The next FCPB meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2017.

FLATHEAD RIVER COMMISSION: Mark Siderius reported new Board Officers were elected. Verdell Jackson - Chairman, Mark Siderius - Vice-Chair, Pam Holmquist -Secretary. The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) received funding to do the remainder of flood inundation mapping of lower Flathead River. Flathead Audubon has pledged \$500 toward the Foys Bend stream gage. Total cost is approximately \$17,000/per yr., however, there is some cost-share from the US Geological Survey (USGS). 2-3 years of year-round data is needed to establish baseline.

CLARK FORK BASIN COUNCIL: Verdell Jackson reported phone conferences are being held, and a meeting is scheduled for April.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

- HB 281 "An act prohibiting electric transmission lines and fossil fuel pipelines from being located under water bodies". Valerie Kurth will contact Elena Evans & Jeff Tiberi, MACD, as this could possibly impact 310-permitting.
- Committee Hearing for Renewable Resource Grant & Loan Program (RRGL) grants – Krause Creek grant application

The next 310-Stream Permit meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 13, 2017, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

ADJOURNMENT: Lori Curtis made a motion "to adjourn." John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Submitted By: Ginger Kauffman, Administrator

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

<u>2/13/2017</u>	<u>Ronald Buentemeier</u>	<u>Chairman</u>
<i>(Date)</i>	<i>(Signature)</i>	<i>(Title - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, etc.)</i>

